

~~SECRET~~

FILE NO.PI/102/14/68

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(Pak-I Registry)

....

S U B J E C T

COLLECTION OF INFORMATION REGARDING NETAJI'S SECRET JOURNEY  
FROM CALCUTTA TO EUROPE IN 1941.

Previous Reference

Later Reference

Recd Cat. C  
Destroy in 1974

sp  
15/11

Notes: Pages 1 — 2

Correspondence: Pages 1 — 8

DECLASSIFIED

64050

Keep

for

16/4/5



(गौतम गुप्ता)  
(GAUTAM GUPTA)  
उप सचिव (वि. एवं आर. प्रम.)  
Joint Secretary (A&RM)  
विदेश मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली  
Ministry of External Affairs  
New Delhi



PI/102/14/68  
M/Ext. Affairs  
(Pak-I Reg.)

SECRET

Prime Minister's Secretariat

S.No. 1 (FR)

21.12.68

see  
JS(Pak) may kindly/the letter PM has received  
from Dr. Sisir K. Bose, Executive Director, Netaji  
Research Bureau, Calcutta. Could he kindly advise  
PM in the matter?

*K. Natwar Singh*  
(K. Natwar Singh)  
23-4-1968

JS(Pak)- Shri P.R.S. Mani.

M's Sectt. N. O. No. *MS-68+3*  
dt. *23-4-68*

Ministry of External Affairs  
(Pakistan Division)

...

In the present context of relations between  
India and Pakistan, it is not likely that the Pakistan  
Government will render cooperation in the matter of  
providing information to collect and verify facts  
regarding Netaji's secret journey from Calcutta to  
Europe in 1941. It is possible that a number of  
persons in Pakistan, particularly ex-INA personnel,  
will be willing to assist the Netaji Research Bureau  
in this matter.

2. It is, therefore, essential to consult our  
High Commissioner in this matter and request him to  
take soundings, if considered necessary, of the  
Information Secretary of Pakistan Mr. Altaf Gauhar.  
A letter is being addressed to High Commissioner Sen  
accordingly.

3. A brief draft reply to Dr. Bose is also  
submitted for Prime Minister's approval.

S.No. 2 (Sectt) dt. 26.4.68

*P.R.S. Mani*  
(P.R.S. Mani)  
Joint Secretary (Pak)  
25.4.1968.

Mr(Spl.), Shri K. Natwar Singh

M.E.A.O. No: 2226/JS(Pak)/68, dt. 16/4/68.

The letter might go from JS(Pak) It  
is best to keep this at office level to begin with

JS(Pak) MFA

S.No. 3 (Sectt) dt. 26.4.68

*7/5/68*

*D. 6020-02/68*  
*13/5/68*

*2529/JS(Pak)/68.*



S. NO 4 (FA)

D. 28.6.68-P3/68

Prime Minister's Secretariat

Pp. P1.

sd/- Narendra Singh  
3/6.

DS (Ppk)

sd/- P.P. Singh

us (Ppk-I)

P1. put up.

sd/- P. Shah  
4/6.

Submitted here now.

Pp 5/6

us (Ppk-I)

Perhaps, Shri Bose may be informed  
on lines of H.E.'s letter. Alternatively, we  
may await H.E.'s final reply as promised  
in L.R. before contacting Shri Bose again.

P  
me  
6/6.

We may write to Shri Bose only  
when something concrete becomes available.  
An interim reply has already gone to him.

De chair  
OSDCK)

DS (Ppk)

2.6.68

Issue ack

W. J. K.

1571/OSD(e)/68

14.6.

us (Ppk-I)

Pp 17/6

2692 OS Day/68

S. No. 157 (9844)

dt. 10.6.68

20/6.



S. NO (11)

From the  
Executive Director

NETAJI RESEARCH BUREAU  
AN INSTITUTE OF HISTORY AND POLITICS  
NETAJI BHAWAN

38/2, LALA LAJPAT RAI ROAD, CALCUTTA 20

No.6/874/68

April 19, 1968.

Shrimati Indira Gandhi,  
Prime Minister,  
Prime Minister's House,  
New Delhi.

Dear Shrimati Gandhi,

For quite some time now we have been trying to collect and verify facts regarding Netaji's secret journey from Calcutta to Europe in 1941. We have now reached a stage when we need to record statements of a number of persons in Pakistan. I had tried some time ago to contact one very important person in this connection through usual correspondence. But no response was forthcoming. It is clear that we must have the cooperation of the Government of Pakistan in the matter. I expect they will be willing to co-operate in a purely historical work of this kind.

My purpose in writing to you to seek your advice as to how the approach to the Pakistan Government should be made. You may prefer to take the matter up with the Government of Pakistan on Governmental level. If not, we shall do as advised.

The work may make it necessary for one or two of us to visit West Pakistan for a limited period. I shall be grateful for an early reply.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

Dr. Sisir K. Bose



P.R.S. Mani  
Joint Secretary (Pak)

2024-DS 10/10/68  
S.No (2)

No. 2226 - JS(Pak)/68,

April 26, 1968.

My dear High Commissioner,

I enclose copy of a letter received by Prime Minister from Dr. Sisir K. Bose, Executive Director, Netaji Research Bureau, Calcutta.

2. In the present context of relations, the Pakistan Government may not render cooperation in the matter of providing information to collect and verify facts regarding Netaji's secret journey from Calcutta to Europe in 1941. It is possible that a number of persons in Pakistan particularly ex-INA personnel will be willing to assist the Netaji Research Bureau in this matter.

3. I shall be grateful if you could kindly informally approach Mr. Altaf Gauhar, Information Secretary and let us know.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(P.R.S. Mani)

Shri S. Sen,  
High Commissioner of India in Pakistan,  
Islamabad.

DS(Pak):

29.4.

us (Pak)

Pak 45

Pak I



13

COPY

From the Executive Director  
Research Bureau, Calcutta. Could he kindly advise PM in the matter.

NETAJI RESEARCH BUREAU  
AN INSTITUTE OF HISTORY AND POLITICS  
NETAJI BHAWAN

33/2, Lala Lajpat Rai Road, Calcutta 20

Sd/- (K. Matwar Singh)  
23-4-1968

No.6/374/68

April 19, 1968

JS(Pak)- Shri P.M.B. Paul

Shrimati Indira Gandhi,  
Prime Minister,  
Prime Minister's House,  
New Delhi.

In the present context of relations between India and Pakistan, Dear Shrimati Gandhi, that the Pakistan Government will render cooperation in the matter of providing information to collect and verify facts regarding Netaji's secret journey from Calcutta to Europe in 1941. We have now reached a stage when we need to record statements of a number of persons in Pakistan. I had tried some time ago to contact one very important person in this connection through usual correspondence. But no response was forthcoming. It is clear that we must have the cooperation of the Government of Pakistan in the matter. I expect they will be willing to cooperate in a purely historical work of this kind.

My purpose in writing to you is to seek your advice as to how the approach to the Pakistan Government should be made. You may prefer to take the matter up with the Government of Pakistan on Governmental level. If not, we shall do as advised.

The work may make it necessary for one or two of us to visit West Pakistan for a limited period. I shall be grateful for an early reply.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

Dr. Sisir K. Bose

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Prime Mini-ster's Secretariat

JS(Pak) may kindly see the letter PM has received from Dr. Sisir K. Bose, Executive Director, Netaji ~~Research~~ Research Bureau, Calcutta. Could he kindly advise PM in the matter.

Sd/-(K. Natwar Singh)  
23-4-1968

JS(Pak)- Shri P.R.S. Mani

Ministry of External Affairs  
(Pakistan Division)

In the present context of relations between India and Pakistan, it is not likely that the Pakistan Government will render cooperation in the matter of providing information to collect and verify facts regarding Netaji's secret journey from Calcutta to Europe in 1941. It is possible that a number of persons in Pakistan, particularly ex-INA personnel, will be willing to assist the Netaji Research Bureau in this matter.

2. It is, therefore, essential to consult our High Commissioner in this matter and request him to take soundings, if considered necessary, of the Information Secretary of Pakistan Mr. Altaf Gauhar. A letter is being addressed to High Commissioner Sen accordingly.

3. A brief draft reply to Dr. Bose is also submitted for Prime Minister's approval.

Sd/-

P.R.S. Mani  
Joint Secretary (Pak)  
25-4-1968

Dir.(Spl), Shri K. Natwar Singh  
M.E.A. u.o.No.2226-JS(Pak)/68, dt. 26/4/68



P.R.S. Mani  
Joint Secretary (Pak)

No.2529-JS(Pak)/68,

May 10, 1968.

Dear Dr. Bose,

Kindly refer to your letter No.6/874/68, dated April 19, 1968 to the Prime Minister on the subject of collection of information regarding Netaji's secret journey from Calcutta to Europe in 1941.

2. In normal times, one could expect that the Pakistan Government will render all cooperation in this matter but in the present circumstances, it seems advisable to first consult our High Commissioner who is being approached in the matter by us. A reply will be sent to you as soon as we hear from our High Commissioner.

Yours sincerely,

*P.R.S.*  
(P.R.S. Mani)

Dr. Sisir K. Bose,  
Executive Director,  
Netaji Research Bureau,  
Netaji Bhawan,  
38/2, Lala Lajpat Rai Road,  
Calcutta-20.

*VS (Pak-I)*

*02/102/m/68*

*13/5*  
*Pak I*





D. 6865-PL/CH  
S.C. 68  
SECRET

1470/OSD(K)/68

(7)

HIGH COMMISSIONER OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD

...

June 2, 1968.

No. ISL/HC-236/68

S.No (4)

Dear Narendra Singh,

Please refer to Mani's letter No. 2226-JS (Pak)/68 of April 26, 1968. I have discussed this matter with Mr. Altaf Gauhar and he was of the view that it would be difficult to find the right people to help compiling material for Netaji Research Bureau. However, he kindly agreed to consult Chaudhary, Public Relations Officer, Pakistan Embassy at Cairo, who is supposed to know all about it.

Secondly, Mr. Altaf Gauhar advised that while there was no objection to this kind of scientific research being undertaken with Pakistan's cooperation, no publicity should be given to this matter simply because Netaji's background etc. has many political implications which are not liked by several political elements. It is best, therefore, not to give any publicity to such help as selected Pakistanis may give in this matter, as otherwise a political controversy may well start on it.

I am reminding Mr. Altaf Gauhar about his kind offer to help, and shall write to you again after he has made the necessary enquiries. I shall also mention this matter quietly to the Foreign Office as indeed was suggested by Gauhar himself.

Yours sincerely  
Sawar Sen  
(S. Sen)

Shri Narendra Singh,  
Officer on Special Duty,  
Ministry of External Affairs,  
New Delhi.

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hhr  
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us (pak)

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Pl. met at  
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Pan E



Secret

S. No. 15

(8)

No.PI/102/14/68, June 10, 1968.

OSD(K)

8-7/1000

SNO (A)

A line to acknowledge  
your letter No.ISL/HC-236/68,  
dated June 2, 1968.

2. We shall await further  
information and keep quiet on  
this matter.

Yours sincerely,

(Narendra Singh)

Shri S. Sen,  
High Commissioner of India,  
Islamabad.

Issued

11/6/68

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Read for 16  
of June 2 12 05 06 (a)  
with 11/6/68  
11/6/68